

BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1943.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health. L.E. Dickson, M.D. (part time).  
Sanitary & Food Inspector. J. Wade. Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Sec.A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	2,502.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population at mid 1943.	5,717.
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1943 according to the rate book.	1,683.
Rateable value.	£27,983.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£110-7-5.4

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births.	111.	60.	51.)	Birth rate per 1,000 of	
Legitimate.	101.	53.	48.)	the estimated resident	
Illegitimate.	10.	7.	3.)	population.	19.4
Still Births.	1.	1.	- )	Rate per 1,000 total	
Legitimate.	1.	1.	- )	live and still births.	89.2
Deaths.	86.	42.	44.	Death rate per 1,000 of	
				the estimated resident	
				population.	15.0

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate.	4.	3.	1.
Illegitimate.	1.	1.	-
Total.	5.	4.	1.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	45.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	39.6
Illegit. infants per 1,000 illegit. live births.	100.0
Deaths from Cancer. (all ages).	10.

Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority - see above.

- (1) Laboratory Facilities. There has been no change.
- (2) Ambulance Facilities. There is one ambulance owned by the Authority which is used for all classes of cases.
- (3) Nursing in the Home. There has been no change.
- (4) Treatment Centres and Clinics. The County Health Department is responsible for these, which are carried on at Bridgnorth Welfare Centre and are as follows:-

	Day	Hours.
School Clinics.	Daily.	9 a.m.
	Weekly.	10-11 a.m.
Orthopaedic Surgeon.	3 monthly.	11 a.m.
Infant Welfare and		
Ante Natal.	Fortnightly.	11-4 p.m.
Tuberculosis.	Monthly.	11 a.m.
(Dr.Elliott).		in each month.

Cases needing X-Ray examination attend at Shrewsbury by arrangement with Dr. Elliott.

Venereal Disease. There are centres at:-

1, Belmont, Shrewsbury.	Tuesdays & Fridays	6-8 p.m.	Men.
	Mondays & Wednesdays.	2-4 p.m.	Women.
Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.	Daily.	Tuesdays & Fridays.	10 a.m. 5 p.m.
		Saturday.	2 p.m.
	Daily.	Tuesday Thursday.	10 a.m. 2 p.m.
			5 p.m.

(5) Hospitals.

Public. Bridgnorth Borough Isolation Hospital.  
Bridgnorth Public Assistance Institution.  
(Women only. Male patients are accommodated where beds are available in other P.A.I.'s in the county.)

Voluntary. Bridgnorth & South Shropshire Infirmary.

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water. The supply from Rindleford Bore Hole is constant and bacteriological analyses prove its suitability as a safe source of drinking water. Its degree of hardness is a drawback for washing purposes and for its use in boilers and hot water systems. A water softening plant is desirable. As a result of the increased commitments of the borough for a supply of this water the pumping plant is working at almost full capacity. It is realised that both for present needs and future developments in and around the borough, an increased storage capacity is necessary. Schemes are under consideration for providing an adequate supply to outlying parts of the borough such as Oldbury and the Hundred House district.

The Oldbury Wells supply by stand-pipes has been examined and found to be in the main satisfactory in quality and has not fallen off in quantity.

Several private supplies have been examined and improvements obtained.

Sewerage and Drainage. The Northgate sewage plant has been reorganised. The Borough Surveyor has in hand a comprehensive post-war sewage scheme.

Swimming Bath. This has continued to be very useful to the youth of the town, but lacks many of the amenities of a modern swimming bath.

An emergency Mortuary has been constructed at the Cemetery according to plans specified by the Government.

Refuse. is collected regularly and disposed of at the Northgate Tip.

A report is appended by your Inspector, Mr. Wade, whose unfailing help I have much pleasure in acknowledging.



Sec. D.

HOUSING.

There has been a steady deterioration in the state of repair of the houses of the industrial workers during the year, in part due to the shortage of labour and building materials.

No new houses have been built.

Inspection of the houses in the borough is in progress with a view to the scheduling of clearance areas.

The Post War Reconstruction Committee has planned for the building of 200 houses in the first year after the war and 274 in the second year, with improved facilities for recreation and playing fields. Sites have been selected and negotiations are in progress with owners, the District Valuer and the Ministry of Town & Country Planning.

Ministry of Health Circular 2871, 1943. This deals with the question of making labour and materials available for carrying out essential work of repairs to house property.

Circular 2845, 1943. This gives power under certain conditions to Local Authorities to requisition unoccupied houses for families inadequately housed.

Sec. E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat.

Meat for the Borough is slaughtered in Wolverhampton prior to transport to and distribution in and around the Borough. An effort to obtain permission to slaughter in the Borough was unsuccessful.

Milk Supply.

A Government White Paper of July 1943, contains proposals for the transference of some duties of Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and for the improvement of milk supplies by raising the standard of health of all dairy herds, and the more extensive use of heat treatment of milk.

Sec. F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Isolation Hospital. Miss Kyle, Matron, who had been seriously ill in December, died in January. Mrs. Robins was then appointed temporary Matron and her appointment has since been confirmed.

Infectious Disease Incidence. An epidemic of mild whooping cough occurred in the second half of the year. There were 14 cases of scarlet fever during the first nine months of the year. No case of diphtheria was notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation. This is carried out mainly by the County Authority, but where there is difficulty in arranging this, application may be made to the Medical Officer of Health to have the treatment given by the patient's own doctor free of cost to the parents. Immunisation by the County Authority is carried out at the Welfare Centre, or at school. Immunisation as soon as possible after a child's first birthday is the best time for this treatment.

### Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics for the year.

The following return was made to the Ministry of Health on the state of immunisation at December 31st, 1943.

	Over 5 and Under 5 yrs. under 15.		
Approximate estimated number of children in the area at December 31st, 1943.	474.	943.	
Percentage of these children considered immunised at 31.12.43.	39%	74%	Total.
Number of children immunised during 1943.	82.	126.	208.

It is noteworthy that there were no cases of diphtheria and no deaths.

### Notifiable Diseases during the year 1943.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	14.	13.	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2.	-	-
Pneumonia.	3.	2.	3.
Measles.	7.	-	-
Whooping Cough.	52.	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1.	1.	-

Patients admitted to the Isolation Hospital numbered 19 of whom 9 were from the Borough and 10 from the Rural District. Three were suspected of having diphtheria, which proved not to be so. Scarlet fever accounted for all the other cases.

### Tuberculosis.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
25 years.	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
35 "	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 "	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total.	2	4	1	2	2	-	-	1

### Cancer.

Deaths numbered ten in the following age groups.

Age Period.	M.	F.
35 years.	-	1
45 "	-	1
65 & upwards.	4	4
Total.	4	6

I am, your obedient servant,

L. E. DICKSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

B O R O U G H       O F       B R I D G N O R T H

Health Department,  
1st January, 1945.

To the Bridgnorth Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor & Members,

I have pleasure in presenting a brief summary of the work carried out during the past year, together with a Report on the sanitary circumstances of the area, requested by the Medical Officer of Health, and which should be considered as one with his report.

INSPECTIONS MADE.

Nuisances .. ..	16	Milk & Dairies .. ..	82
Drainage .. ..	44	Food inspection .. ..	95
Sanitary Accommodation ..	32	" Stores .. ..	26
Ashbins .. ..	78	" Preparers .. ..	18
Vermin & Disinfestations	22	Bakehouses .. ..	25
Emergency Sanitation ..	6	Market Stalls .. ..	40
Housing Inspections ..	40		
" Surveys .. ..	35		286.
Overcrowding .. ..	2		
Moveable Dwellings ..	12		
" Sites	7		
Factories .. ..	10		
Workplaces .. ..	7		
Rats and Mice .. ..	304		
Water Supply .. ..	10		
Food & Drugs Act (as opposite)	286		
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Total inspections ..	911		
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" Re-inspections ..	196		
" Visits not inspections	393		

NO. OF STATUTORY NOTICES & RESULTS OF SAME.

Notices complied with ..	30
Notices not complied with	2
Notices not complied with and	
action taken in default	15
Demolition Orders operative	1
	<hr/>
	48
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Notices outstanding from 1942	1
Notices outstanding from 1942	
and now complied with	1

NO. OF INFORMAL NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Notices complied with	31
Notices not complied with	3
Notices not complied with and	
Statutory Notices served	7
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	41
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Bridgnorth is splendidly situated amongst lovely surroundings, and the town itself suffers very little from industrial smoke. Owing to its hilly nature, however, the domestic smoke problem is in parts a considerable one, and the Council might consider the use of smokeless heating and cooking arrangements in any future housing operations which they undertake.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The main water supply of the Borough has been shown by periodic bacteriological analyses to be entirely satisfactory. There are large portions of the Borough, however, which do not enjoy the mains supply, and every effort should be made to make such a supply available throughout the whole of the Council's area.

The conduit supply has also been the subject of bacteriological analysis, and is shown at source as being of a high standard of purity. That portion of the conduit supply which is served from the High Street tank has been shown to be rather unsatisfactory, probably owing to the conditions of storage. The Borough Surveyor is attending to the cleansing of the storage and distribution of this portion of the conduit supply.

Samples of private water supplies have been taken in the following instances:-

9 & 10 Danesford; 28 Mill Street; Sydney Cottage & dairy premises adjoining; Bungalow, Hundredhouse Bank; Roundthorn Farm; Punch Bowl Inn, and Fort Pendlestone Dairies.

In the first three cases, the owners have had the towns main supply laid on.

The bungalow, Hundredhouse Bank, is supplied by rainwater only, which cannot be considered a sufficient supply. The Roundthorn Farm supply is both unsatisfactory and insufficient, and the Punch Bowl Inn is unsatisfactory. There is at the moment a possibility that the whole of this area will receive the town mains supply, which would be a considerable improvement. The Fort Pendlestone supply was found not satisfactory in its present condition, and steps are being taken towards securing an improvement in the supply, or the taking of a supply from the town mains.

#### FOOD.

The meat supply of the Borough continues to come from Wolverhampton Abattoir, and it cannot be said that the means of distribution or storage are wholly satisfactory. There has, however, been some improvement during the past year in this respect. The quality of meat generally is high, though occasions have arisen when difficulty has been experienced. Happily there has been no occasion for condemnation of meat from this source for the past few months.

The standard of food preparation in the Borough is very good, though most of the premises in which it is carried out cannot be said to be entirely satisfactory. The methods of food storage were in many cases found unsatisfactory, but are now much improved. In one instance, report had to be had to seizure of foodstuffs unsatisfactorily stored, but no further trouble has since been experienced.

During the year a complete survey of farm premises in the area has been undertaken, and the Milk & Dairies Register brought up to date, so far as producers and dairy premises are concerned. Speaking generally, the standard of milk production is low, but has undoubtedly improved in some particulars.

The Council have during the year added their weight to the protest against the Ministry of Agriculture's declared policy of taking over the supervision of food production, and it is hoped that





the very great body of opinion against this course will be successful in securing for local authorities a continuation of their duties, together with a necessary extension of their powers in securing proper methods of milk production.

It is hoped during the coming year to be able to present the Waterworks & Sanitary Committee with a complete report on the dairy premises within the Borough.

#### HOUSING.

The housing situation within the Borough can only be described as unsatisfactory. The percentage of unfit houses is unduly high, whilst that of overcrowding, though not definitely ascertainable at the present time, will be a cause of considerable concern in the future.

During the year surveys of houses have been made, which have resulted in the placing on the Post-War Register of 674 houses requiring inspection. It has been possible to make a start towards the inspection of these houses, and it is hoped to make further headway during the coming year.

Since the beginning of the War, the difficulty of securing the repair of house property has increased enormously. It has now, however, received attention from the Ministry of Health, and arrangements have been put in hand whereby it should be possible, not only to secure a little extra housing accommodation by the conversion of suitable premises, but the carrying out of essential repairs. It should also be possible to go some way towards stopping the present rapid deterioration in house property, which is causing property owners, besides the local authority, considerable concern.

#### RATS & MICE.

During the year a survey of the Borough for the incidence of rats and mice has been undertaken at the request of the Ministry of Food. This survey has shown a considerable amount of infestation, though not of quite so serious a nature as had been anticipated. The Council still await the opinion of the Ministry of Food as to the best method of tackling the problem, and in the meantime the responsibility for the destruction of rats and mice rests with the County Council.

Yours faithfully,

  
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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